GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:339
ANSWERED ON:23.07.2003
OPTO CIRCUITS
RENUKA CHOWDHURY

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that ` OPTO Circuits`the Indian made blood warmers manufactured by Bangalore based medical electronics company was used to treat injured soldiers during the Iraq war to accelerate blood transfusion;

(b) if so, the details thereof

(c) whether the `OPTO circuits` have been found suitable for the use in accidents and trauma cases; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to popularise its use in hospitals, accidents and trauma centres?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) to (d). Yes Sir, a Bangalore based firm has been manufacturing blood warmers, and has bagged a contract with a U.S. based company to supply these to the U.S. Army. These blood warmers have been patented by the U.S. company, and are being manufactured in India for supply to the U.S.Army in Iraq.

Blood warmers are devices used in rare instances to warm blood up to body temperature levels, which was previously stored in refrigerators prior to being used in blood transfusion at short notice. Blood warmers are used particularly, when the patient receives multiple, rapid transfusions, to prevent onset of arrhythmia or cardiac arrest. Blood warmers are not indicated for routine transfusion of blood.

Accident and trauma cases do not always need massive blood transfusions in a short time and can do without a blood warmer.